

How to Buy Snowblades

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If you've always dreamed of gliding effortlessly down endless fields of powder snow, but get tripped up by the length of traditional alpine skis, snowblades may be for you. Also called skiboards, snowblades are shorter versions of their cousins--the alpine ski. Because of their shorter length, it's easier to learn how to glide, turn and stop. Most people who are new to skiing can learn how to ski on snowblades in half the time it would take on alpine skis.

Difficulty: Moderately Easy

Instructions

things you'll need:

- Snowblades
- Ski bindings
- Alpine ski boots

- 1 Choose the model of snowblade that best fits your skiing style. Narrow snowblades are easier to maneuver through mogul fields, trees and terrain that requires quick turning. Wider snowblades are ideal for carving long arcs on groomed runs. Snowblades also come in a variety of flex patterns. Harder, stiffer snowblades perform well while carving high speed turns. Softer flex patterns are easier to turn.
- 2 Select the appropriate length of snowblade based on your ability level and the type of skiing you enjoy. Snowblade lengths run from 68 cm to more than 120 cm. Shorter models are good for beginners and skiers who enjoy quick turns at slower speeds. Longer models are better for large, heavier men or anyone who enjoys stability at higher speeds.
- 3 Buy a soft flexing, hard-shell ski boot to use with your snowblades. While snowblades require hard-shell alpine boots, the boots don't need to be as stiff as models used with longer alpine skis. Look for boots that are designed for entry-level skiers. Beginner boots are less expensive and work better than alpine boots that are less flexible.
- 4 Mount bindings on your snowblades. While you can buy bindings that are made expressly for snowblades, you can also use just about any type of traditional alpine binding that accommodates a shoe up to size 15.
- 5 Consider buying accessories like ski wax, ski tuning tools and a carrying case to protect your new investment. Like alpine skis, snowblades offer the best experiences when properly tuned and maintained.

Tips & Warnings

- Try several pairs of snowblades before you purchase them. Choose a model that works best in a variety of conditions. Look for used snowblades on [the Internet](#).

- Start slowly. It takes time to acquire your balance on shorter snowblades. Be sure that your bindings are properly adjusted for shorter skis.

Resources

- [Skiboards](#)